

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 - 11, 13, 15, 16 - 18, 20 - 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirkwood. (US Patent 6,665,662) in view of Lippert (US Patent 6,356,906). This is a new grounds of rejection, specifically Lippert was not previously cited. Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants' claim 1 as amended on 02/13/05, requires a web server having an API (application programming interface) coupled to a data store for sending a query to the data store and receiving a directory entry. Claim 1 also requires a wrapper coupled to the API adapted for accepting the query from a user application in a plurality of programming languages. Examples of such programming languages are given in applicants' specification page 11 as Java, LOTUS SCRIPT, REXX, and "C".

As noted by the Examiner, Kirkwood does not describe a wrapper adapted for accepting a query in a plurality of programming languages. In fact, Kirkwood's server side adapter accepts and passes only XML documents. XML is a markup language, not a programming language, see Lippert column 1, lines 40 - 44. Lippert also teaches that his query in the SQL language is wrapped in a markup language, such as XML, column 2, lines 25 - 28, also column 5, lines 63 - 64. Lippert performs this wrap step at the client side. See his FIG 2(a) and FIG 3, and column 6, lines 26 - 48.

Lippert then further wraps at the client side his XML wrapped query with a transport protocol, such as HTTP (Hyper Text Transport Protocol), column 6, line 49 - column 7, line 25. This

twice wrapped query is then sent from his client computer to his server computer. Lippert merely states in column 7, lines 29 - 30, that his "server processes the query and returns a suitable response", without any further details.

Lippert then describes wrapping this response with a markup language, such as XML, and then further wrapping with a transport protocol, such as HTTP (column 7, line 56 - column 8, line 67). It is then sent from his server computer to his client computer.

Applicants' claim 1 steps are performed at server computer having an API and a wrapper coupled to API adapted for accepting a query from a user application in a plurality of programming languages. Lippert, as noted above, provides no description or suggestion of how his server accepts and processes a query. Although Lippert states in column 10, lines 23 - 25, that his invention can be used with any database query language and any markup language, he does not describe, suggest, or imply that a query in a plurality of programming languages can be accepted. In fact, in his statement of advantages of his invention in column 10, line 61 - column 11, line 4, Lippert notes that various clients and servers having inherent database capability, such as SQL, can interact because his queries and responses are wrapped with transport protocols and markup languages understood by the other clients and other servers. But, he does not state anything about accepting a query in a plurality of programming languages as required by Applicants' claim 1.

Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Kirkwood, or Lippert, or any combination thereof because neither describe this essential element.

Independent claims 10, 18, 20, and 22, also now recite this plurality of programming languages requirement and are likewise allowable. All of the remaining claims are dependent directly or indirectly on these allowable claims and are therefore also allowable.

Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and allowance of all of the claims in the present application.

The Application is deemed in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707, 707.07(d) and 707.07(j) in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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